

**MCLUAC (Middle Canyon Land Use Advisory Committee)**  
**Minutes from July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Meeting**  
**Location: West Glacier Elementary School**

Call to Order: 7:00 p.m.

Committee Members:

- |                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| • Sharon DeMeester | 12/31/21 |
| • Aubrie Loroña    | 12/31/22 |
| • Lexi Woods       | 12/31/23 |
| • Victoria Lee     | 12/31/23 |
| • Joe Hoff         | 12/31/23 |

Approval of Agenda posted on the Flathead County Website

- Sharon DeMeester motioned to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 minutes as amended

- Sharon Demeester motioned to approve the June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and Public Comments

- West Glacier Vision Plan (WGVP) Update:
  - Mary Tee McClelland – At the next Flathead County Planning & Zoning meeting on **August 11th, 2021** the Planning Board will consider moving forward with adopting the West Glacier Vision Plan amendment to the Canyon Plan as presented by the Middle Canyon Land Use Committee at the June meeting.
    1. Comments may be submitted via email to **[planning.zoning@flathead.mt.gov](mailto:planning.zoning@flathead.mt.gov)**
    2. The Flathead County Planning Board will meet beginning at 6:00 P.M. in the 2nd floor conference room of the South Campus Building 40 11th Street West, Suite 200, Kalispell, MT 59901.
    3. As always, the public is encouraged and welcome to attend. There is also an option to join the meeting via Zoom. See the attached Agenda and background paper for detailed information.
    4. Note from Mary: the WGVP is non-regulatory, community driven, and won't cost anything. Even if the County decides not to adopt it, we can still use the Vision Plan to write grants, work on projects, etc.
  - Donna Valade is the interim Director of Flathead County Planning and Zoning (previously Mark Mussman). She has done extensive research, reviewed all our work to date, and is prepared to represent us the best that she can. On the Flathead County website, the WGVP has been translated/divided into actionable items. It also includes pertinent contacts. The hope is that these action items will inspire the public to start Working Groups to address said issues/concerns.
  - Mary Tee McClelland gave a presentation to the Crown Managers Partnership because the WGVP is a small segment of what they are trying to do themselves.
- Wildfire Update:
  - Mary Tee McClelland – if you are not on the West Glacier Community Wildfire distribution list, Monica Jungster just sent out another public service announcement. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please email Monica at [mthouse@centurylink.net](mailto:mthouse@centurylink.net). The more you are doing yourself, the more you are doing for your neighbor. Share any information you have on the prevention of fires and please be sure to inform short-term renters in the area of fire risk and mitigation procedures.

#### New Business:

- Cellular Service
  - Gary Rogers – we are looking for way to try and improve cell phone service and internet connectivity in the West Glacier area. I reached out to Verizon but they were not much help.
  - Sharon DeMeester asked, “what is GNP doing?” In which Aubrie Lorona responded saying that GNP’s plan is to add/increase connectivity to all developed areas but they are still in the early phases of the project. The system they are working with is called Access Parks.
  - Victoria Lee – West Glacier Elementary School has been working with Montana Sky on potentially getting a grant to better service the area to serve the school. Nothing is in place currently.
- Road Safety, West Glacier
  - Gary Rogers – with the recent road construction and the temporary stop light at the intersection of Hwy 2 and the Going to the Sun Road, I feel as though it has increased safety to highway traffic and pedestrians. What is the groups perspective if we had a “seasonal light” there each year?
  - Various comments from around the group – the University of Montana has been doing a traffic study so they would be a good agency to reach out to. The West Glacier Historical Gateway Project has proposed similar concerns in regards to the sidewalk leading into the underpass. MDOT has been notified of our concerns. Conclusion: this is a critical issue in the area and we should focus on it. A Working Group will need to form to address/explore the concern. Most, if not all, seem in favor to make that intersection more safe.
- West Glacier Historical Gateway Project (WGHGP)
  - Sharon Bengston – the Montana Department of Transportation has taken responsibility to connect the sidewalk leading into West Glacier. The WGHGP (Glacier Underpass) met with the highway department and BNSF on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021. BNSF has some rules/information (scope of the project) they need from us before we can proceed. We are still just figuring out how to best work with them. Their main concerns are safety and transportation, not “beautifying.” On the billboard you see before you drive under the overpass, there is now GoFundMe information to help support the overall project. Martel Construction is the contractor for the project. The Center for Native Plants is the landscaping company we’ll be working with. Overall, the highway department has been good to work with but our major push-back has been from BNSF. We (WGHGP) plan to reach out to our state and regional senators for support.

#### Public Attendees

Mary Tee McClelland

Gary Rogers

Joe Hoff

Sally Thompson

Mike Kopitzke

Sharon Bengston

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Adjournment 7:39 p.m.

*Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation by contacting Elaine Nelson at the Flathead County Commissioner's Office at 758-5501 or TTY (800) 335-7592, or call Montana Relay at 711. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation. Any communication with the Flathead Planning and Zoning Office are subject to relevant State and Federal public record and information laws and regulations and may be disclosed without further notice to you.*

**How to contact the Middle Canyon Land Use Committee (MCLUAC)**

All correspondence goes to the Flathead Planning Office initially. Concerns, complaints or questions should be sent to [Planning.zoning@flathead.mt.gov](mailto:Planning.zoning@flathead.mt.gov); the office will respond within 24 hours.

Compliance complaints can be submitted by Middle Canyon residents by completing the compliant form provided online, attached to an email to the [Planning.zoning@flathead.mt.gov](mailto:Planning.zoning@flathead.mt.gov) office. Forms are also available at the Flathead County Planning and Zoning Office, 40-11<sup>th</sup> Street W, Kalispell MT

**Code compliance web page:**

[https://flathead.mt.gov/planning\\_zoning/codecompliance.php](https://flathead.mt.gov/planning_zoning/codecompliance.php)

**Complaint violation form:**

[https://flathead.mt.gov/planning\\_zoning/documents/ComplaintFormupdated12.19.16.pdf](https://flathead.mt.gov/planning_zoning/documents/ComplaintFormupdated12.19.16.pdf)